

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells, wherein genes encoding G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) that couple with G-proteins other than Gq subtype G-proteins and genes encoding a chimeric Gq α subunit ~~constituted by a portion of a~~ consisting of, from N-terminus to C-terminus, amino acid sequence of Gq α or G $_{11}\alpha$ subunit N-terminal region encompassing by subunit activation site and a portion of a amino acid sequence of G $_{14}\alpha$, G $_{15}\alpha$, or G $_{16}\alpha$ subunit C-terminal region encompassing receptor binding site are transfected into animal cells and expressed therein.
2. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 1, wherein the ~~amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the~~ chimeric Gq α subunit ~~is derived from a Gq or G $_{11}$~~ consists of the amino acid sequence of the G $_{11}\alpha$ subunit and the ~~amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G $_{14}$, G $_{15}$, or G $_{16}$ G $_{14}\alpha$ subunit~~.
3. (Original) The method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 1, wherein a gene encoding a GPCR is first transfected and a gene encoding the chimeric Gq α subunit is then transfected 12 to 36 hours thereafter.
4. (Original) The method for preparing foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the amount of genes encoding the chimeric Gq α subunit to that of the genes encoding a GPCR is 1:0.1 to 1:10.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~A group of foreign~~ Foreign protein-expressing cells comprising a G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) that couples with a G-protein other than Gq subtype G-protein and a chimeric Gq α subunit ~~constituted by a portion of a~~ subunit consisting of, from N-terminus to C-terminus, amino acid sequence of Gq α or G $_{11}\alpha$ subunit N-terminal region encompassing by subunit activation site and a portion of a

amino acid sequence of G₁₄α, G₁₅α, or G₁₆α subunit C-terminal region encompassing receptor binding site.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~group of~~ foreign protein-expressing cells according to claim 5, wherein the ~~amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gqα subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁~~ consists of the amino acid sequence of the G₁₁α subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ G₁₄α subunit.
7. (Withdrawn) A screening method, wherein a test substance is brought into contact with foreign protein-expressing cells comprising a G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) and a chimeric Gqα subunit constituted by a portion of a Gqα or G₁₁α subunit and a portion of a G₁₄α, G₁₅α, or G₁₆α subunit, GPCR activities are assayed, and a ligand of the GPCR is then screened for.
8. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 7, wherein elevation of intracellular Ca concentration is assayed.
9. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 7, wherein changes in a Ca-dependent Cl current are assayed as indicators of intracellular Ca concentration.
10. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gqα subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ subunit.
11. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 8, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gqα subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ subunit.

12. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 9, wherein the amino acid sequence of the N-terminal side of the chimeric Gq α subunit is derived from a Gq or G₁₁ subunit and the amino acid sequence of the C-terminal side thereof is derived from a G₁₄, G₁₅, or G₁₆ subunit.